



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Memorandum

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D., Acting Superintendent 

DATE: February 22, 2005

SUBJECT: Report on Administrative Rule Waivers

At its June 19, 1996, meeting the State Board of Education approved the process for waivers of Administrative Rules. Section 1281(3) of The Revised School Code of 1996 took effect on July 1, 1996. This section provides for a limited time waiver of a State Board or Department rule to a school district, public school academy, university school, or intermediate school district for the purpose of serving the intent of the rule in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner or to stimulate improved pupil performance in Michigan schools.

The approved process includes: (1) the ability to file an independent or joint application with responsibility for oversight at each participating local board of education; (2) the necessity to complete a separate application for each rule for which a waiver is being requested; (3) a description of how the district will address the intent of the rule/statute in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner or how the waiver will be implemented to stimulate improved pupil performance; (4) a description of who and how interested parties were notified and involved in the application process; e.g., teachers, parents, community, others; and (5) a plan for addressing issues of local accountability and how the applicant will document that the waiver continues to meet the criteria in the application, does not compromise equal opportunities for learning, and is not detrimental to the educational interests of any pupils, as required by the Act.

Attachment A provides information on the waivers approved by the Superintendent since January 11, 2005, based on reviews and recommendations of appropriate Department staff and the internal waiver review committee.

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R/0905 -05 - OSE/EIS Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District

Exemptions: None

Administrative Rule: 340.1748 (2) - Programs for students with severe multiple
Waiver Synopsis: impairments

Reduce the number of days school is in session to 226 days, but maintain 1,150 hours of instruction

District Rationale:

- Offers families more relaxed summer schedule while encouraging professional staff to work during the summer.
- Reducing number of days worked will maximize instructional impact.
- Students spending less time on the bus during warm months.
- Parents have been generally agreeable with reduced days.
- The Parent Advisory Committee is supportive.
- Exceeds the required hours by 201.25.

Action:

Approve, noting that the instructional program shall have no breaks greater than two consecutive weeks. Please submit a copy of the summer program calendar when it has been finalized.

Recommended waiver period:

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008

R/0906 -05 - OSE/EIS Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District

Exemptions: None

Administrative Rule: 340.1738(b) - Severe cognitive impairment

Waiver Synopsis:

Reduce the number of days school is in session to 226 days, but maintain 1,150 hours of instruction.

District Rationale:

- Offers families more relaxed summer schedule while encouraging professional staff to work during the summer.
- Reducing number of days worked will maximize instructional impact.
- Students spending less time on the bus during warm months.
- Parents have been generally agreeable with reduced days.
- The Parent Advisory Committee is supportive.
- Exceeds the required hours by 201.25.

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